

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2003. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Niblack. This Section 102(e) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires that "a display screen of the file processing apparatus is divided into at least three different areas at a given point in time so as to include each of the file display region, the selected display region, and a process display region, so that the display screen simultaneously displays each of the following at the given point in time: (a) the icons of the plurality of predetermined files in the file display region, (b) at least the selected file in the selected display region which is different than the file display region, and (c) process icons in the process display region indicative of processes that the selected file can be subjected to." For purposes of example only, see Fig. 3 of the instant application which illustrates that the display screen at a given point in time is divided into three regions W1, W2 and W3. In particular, region W1 is a file display region in which an array of icons for different files are displayed; region W2 is a selected display region in which files selected from region W1 are displayed in icon (e.g., thumbnail) form; and region W3 is a process display region in which icons are displayed indicative of processes which the selected files in region W2 may be subjected to. See also Figs. 6-8, 11-14, 17, and 20-22 of the instant application.

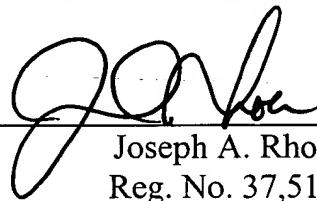
Niblack fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid quoted and underlined aspects of claim 1. Fig. 5 of Niblack includes a file display region in which an array of files are displayed in icon form. However, Fig. 5 of Niblack fails to disclose or suggest the claimed selected display region and process display region, in addition to the file display region, that are required by claim 1. Niblack teaches directly away from the invention of claim 1, because Niblack requires going to a different display screen upon selection of a file. Niblack's system is thus undesirable in that it is unduly complicated (i.e., a user cannot view all three display regions at the same time). Accordingly, it can be seen that Niblack cannot anticipate or otherwise render unpatentable the invention of amended claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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